



SENATE OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

ORDER PAPER

Thursday, 25th October, 2007

1. Prayers
2. Approval of the Votes and Proceedings
3. Oaths
4. Announcements (if any)
5. Petitions

PRESENTATION OF A BILL

1. Freedom of Information Bill, 2007 (SB. 19) - *First Reading*
Senator Victor Ndoma-Egba:- (Cross River North) and 24 Others

PRESENTATION OF A REPORT

1. Report of the Committee on Finance:
Screening of Nominee: Senator Ahmed M. Makarfi:- (Kaduna North)
"That the Senate do receive the Report of the Committee on Finance, on the Screening of Ms. Omoigui Ifueko Marina, as Chairman/Chief Executive Officer of the Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS)". {To be laid}.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

MOTIONS

1. The Collapse of the Nigerian Textile Industry:
Sen. Ahmed I. Lawan:- (Yobe North)
Sen. Abubakar D. Sodangi:- (Nasarawa West)
Sen. Mahmud K. Bello:- (Katsina North)
Sen. Maina Ma'aji Lawan:- (Borno North)
Sen. Olorunnimbe Mamora:- (Lagos East)
Sen. Kabiru I. Gaya:- (Kano South)
Sen. Bukar A. Ibrahim:- (Yobe East)
Sen. Umaru Dahiru:- (Sokoto South)
Sen. Ibrahim M. Ida:- (Katsina Central)
Sen. Adamu Talba:- (Yobe South)
Sen. Ahmed M. Makarfi (Kaduna North)
Sen. Ayogu Eze:- (Enugu North)
Sen. Abdullah! I. Umar:- (Gombe Central)
Sen. Omar A. Hambagda (Borno South) Sen.
Patricia Akwashiki:- (Nasarawa North) Sen.
Mohammed K. Jibrin:- (Kaduna Central) Sen.
Bala Mohammed:- (Bauchi South) Sen. Jibrin
U. Wowo:- (FCT) Sen. Mohammed Bello:-
(Kano Central) Sen. Mohammed Mana:-
(Adamawa Central) Sen. Abdullazeez Usman:-
(Jigawa East) Sen. Caleb Zagi:- (Kaduna
South) Sen. Garba Lado:- (Katsina South)
Sen. Aloysius A. Etok:- (Akwa Ibom West)
Sen. Suleiman Nazif:- (Bauchi North) Sen.
Aminu S. Garo:- (Kano North)

The Senate

Observes that the Textile Industry was the largest single sector within the private sector of the economy in terms of total investments, output and turnover, and it was the second largest employer of labour after the Government;

Observes that in early 1980's the total direct employment in the industry was over 300,000 people, additional indirect employment generated by the industry was in excess of 700,000 people;

Worried that the total employment by this industry today declined to 26,000 people only;

Notes that in early 1980's the number of functioning textile industries in Nigeria was 175 and there are only 26 surviving today;

Concerned about the influx of smuggled textile materials into the country, particularly from the borders with Niger, Benin, Cameroon, etc and smuggled textiles account for over 80% market share in Nigeria;

Notes that waivers from-prohibition and tariff concessions to a few companies have led to unacceptable distortion in the sector;

Concerned further that as per the UNIDO Study 2002/2003, the age of the machinery in the Nigerian Textile Industry was 3-28% in Spinning and 8% in Weaving, compared to 40% and 93% respectively for Spinning and Weaving in South Africa;

Concerned that the quality and quantity of cotton, the primary raw material for the textile mills are abysmally low due to lack of meaningful investments in the production non-remunerative prices to farmers, a consequence of the Country's neglect of the agricultural sector.

Accordingly Resolves to:

- (i) *Urge* the Federal Government to provide financial support through an institutional framework to enable Nigerian cotton and textile companies who wish to re-tool, to acquire spare parts and new technology, to expand production capacity, to salvage the situation;
- (ii) *Urge* the Nigerian Customs Service to embark on a deliberate and elaborate anti-smuggling campaign and invoke the Import Prohibition List of 2004 which banned import textiles-yarns, fabrics and garments;
- (iii) *Urge* the Federal Government to review existing waivers with respect to import of cotton-yarn, Polyester and Polyester Filament Yarn Fabrics which are adequately produced locally; and
- (iv) *Urge* the Federal Government to make imports of all cotton and textile inputs and equipment duty-free for a ten-year period.

2. De-Congestion of Federal Government Ministries, Agencies, Commissions and Parastatals from the Metropolis of Abuja Municipal Area Council (AMAC) to the Other Area Councils within the Federal Capital Territory:

Senator Yisa Braimoh;- (*Edo North*)

The Senate

Notes that the Federal Capital Territory is made up of Six (6) Area Councils, to wit; Abaji, Bwari, Gwagwalada, Kuje, Kwali and Abuja Municipal;

Observes that all Federal Government Ministries, Commissions, Parastatals and several other private businesses are concentrated mostly within certain areas such as Garki 1, 3 and 10 and Wuse Zones 3 and 4, which are all within the Abuja Metropolis;

Observes that the concentration of these Federal Government Ministries, Agencies, Commissions and Parastatals within the Central Business District (CBD) of Abuja have led to serious congestion characterized by heavy traffic build-ups around the Abuja Metropolis;

Notes that traveling into and out of the Abuja Metropolis is always extremely cumbersome, for instance the traffic begins from the Gwarinpa-Kubwa fly-over and continues right down past Kubwa, eases off for about 10 Kilometers only to continue again at Dei-Dei area;

Notes further that areas such as Nyanya-Mararaba are completely chaotic at all times of the day due to the heavy traffic experienced on that particular route caused by over 3,000 vehicles either leaving or coming into Abuja Metropolis;

Convinced that the locations of some of these Federal Ministries, Agencies Commission and Parastatals were not originally included in the Abuja Master Plan leading to the recent demolition of some Federal Government Agencies such as National Biotechnological Agency and the Federal Ministry of Works , Mabushi, whilst several others that are not within the Abuja Master Plan, still exist;

Notes that residents of the Federal Capital Territory continue to suffer untold hardship whilst trying to get to work everyday from other satellite areas to the Abuja Metropolis;

Observes that the traffic situation and congestion within the Abuja Metropolis today can be adequately compared to that in Lagos State where residents living in areas such as Akowonjo, Alagbado, Ikorodu, Ketu, epe, Lekki, Badagry and FESTAC Town have to leave home as early as 5 a.m everyday in order to get to work in the Lagos and Victoria Islands, which constitute the commercial nerve centre of the State;

Observes that in due course the traffic situation and congestion within the Abuja Metropolis are likely to lead to a situation frightfully worse than the chaotic problem already existing in Lagos State;

Accordingly resolves to:

- (i) *Urge* the Federal Government in a medium term not exceeding the next 5 years to de-congest not less than half of the Federal Government Ministries, Agencies, Commission and Parastatals within the Abuja Metropolis to the other Area Councils;
- (ii) *Urge* the Federal Capital Development Authority to continue to maintain and vigorously sustain the Master Plan;
- (Hi) *Urge* all Agencies dealing with traffic and safety on our roads to remain active and vigilant in the performance and conduct of their duties, so as to reduce traffic hazards within and around the Abuja Metropolis and the Federal Capital Territory;
- (iv) *Mandate* its two Committees on Establishment and Public Service, and the Federal Capital Territory to liaise with the relevant Federal Government Agencies for the actualization of the de-congestion of Federal Government Ministries, Agencies, Commission and Parastatals from the Abuja Metropolis to the other Area Councils.

3. Drought in the Northern Parts of Nigeria:

Senator Mahmud Kanti Bello:- (*Katsina North*)

Senator Maina Ma'aji Lawal:- (*Borno North*)

Senator Kaka M. Yale:- (*Borno Central*)

The Senate

Notes the increasing effect of draught on many farmlands in the Northern parts of the country which has caused most of the affected farms to dry up;

Notes that as a result of this, most crops produced in this areas like guinea corn, maize, millet, etc, have continued to steadily declined in their yield;

Observes that experts have confirmed the prevalence of draught in the area situated around Latitude 11 ° North of the equator, which area covers most of the affected states consisting of Kebbi, Sokoto, Katsina, Kano, Jigawa, Yobe and Borno;

Notes that more than 30% of the Nigeria Population representing about 50 million people reside in this area and rely almost entirely on farming for their subsistence;

Notes that the areas account for over 50% of all cereals produced in Nigeria consisting of maize, millet, guinea corn and cash crops such as cotton and groundnut which are major raw materials for most Industries and serve for both local consumption and export;

Observes that the pattern of rainfall noticed in these areas this cropping season and its abrupt stoppage in August portends serious consequences and may likely result in poor harvest and consequent hunger;

Accordingly resolves to:

- (i) *Urge* the Federal Government in conjunction with the affected States to develop an urgent and realistic strategy to avert hunger and the effects of draught on Nigerian Citizens;
- (ii) *Urge* the Federal Ministry of Agriculture to brief the Senate through its Committee on Agriculture, on the position of grains in Nigeria's Strategic Grain Reserves;
- (iii) *Urge* the Federal Government to make adequate provisions in the 2008 budget to tackle the likely effects of the draught currently being experienced in the affected Nigerian States lying around Latitude 11° north of the equator;
- (iv) *Urge* the Federal Government and Governments of the affected States to urgently declare a state of emergency in their agricultural sectors;
- (v) *Direct* its Committee on Agriculture to visit and assess the extent of impact in the affected areas and come up with a proposal on ways of tackling the disaster.

PRESENTATION AND CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS

1. **Report of the Committee on Establishment and Public Service:**

Screening of Nominees:

Senator Mohammed I. Ahmed:- (Kwara North)

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"That the Senate do receive and consider the Report of the Committee on Establishment and Public Service, on the screening of the following persons as Chairman and Members of the Federal Civil Service Commission (FCSC) and approve the recommendations".

S/N	Name	Designation	State of Origin	Cluster of States Represented
1.	Amb. Ahmed Al-Gazali OON, mni	Chairman	Borno	
2.	Mrs. Sarah P. Chundung Dokotri	Member	Plateau	Benue, Nasarawa and Plateau
3.	Obong Uwah	Member	Akwa Ibom	Akwa Ibom, and Cross River
4.	Mr. Agbo G. Chukwuemeka	Member	Enugu	Anambra, Ebonyi and Enugu
5.	Mr. Joseph Oluremi Akande	Member	Osun	Osun and Oyo
6.	Amb. Z. M. Kazaure	Member	Jigawa	Kano and Jigawa

